

It takes diligence to train our children in good character and praise them each day. However, the end results are worth every sacrifice. This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the character training that your child is learning in our karate classes.

1. If you invest a few minutes a day and implement some of the ideas in this monthly letter at home you will help your child get SO MUCH MORE out of the time you spend at our school as well as establish patterns for successful behavior as adults.
2. You may not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. However, please take a few seconds and just scan through the different topics.
3. Try it for a month! Print out this newsletter, and then each day pick something to discuss and practice with your children.
4. **Here is an idea: We have five 'I wills', one scripture, and one definition. That is seven things total. What I try to do is take one of those seven things and discuss it, explain it, and catch my child doing it and applying it that day. Or, if they missed an opportunity to apply it I try to show them how they could have used it. So after one week, I will have reviewed all seven and I repeat it each week of the month.**

I take very seriously the opportunity you give me by allowing me to partner with you to teach your child the things of God. So, I ask and encourage you to help me with your prayers. Please join us in prayer every class your child attends for God to open his or her eyes, ears, and heart to understand and apply His truth that we will be sharing that day. **Also, please pray for us** that we would be good stewards of the time you have given us with your child and we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord and His word. **Every class, every time, please join with us in prayer. No Prayer – No Power. Much prayer – Much Power.**

The Power of a Partnership and Consistency

I hope for the chance to expose your child to sound Biblical Character Training **over a long period of time**. And Lord willing, the longer the term of exposure to this curriculum the **BIGGER** the impact will be on your child and what he or she can achieve in life... **keeping in mind that life is all about the glory of God.**

And your child will be exposed to this character building curriculum everyday you visit our school!

Enjoy the Parent preview below:

LOYALTY vs. FAITHLESSNESS Parent Preview

Definition for Class:

LOYALTY is using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve.

Other definitions:

- Loyalty is the bonding of individuals in a long term commitment of sacrificial support and defense.
- Loyalty is exchanging “open accounts” on our time, energy, and possessions with others.
- The ultimate display of loyalty is not to people or to associations, but to the truth.
- Building loyalty in others is accomplished by demonstrating loyalty to them.
- Loyalty is demonstrating our commitment to God by staying with those whom he has called us to serve.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH LOYALTY? The way children respond to difficult times depends on the strength of their character. Do they abandon their commitments for selfish reasons, or prove their loyalty by doing the right thing, even when it is hard?

1. I will serve my family and teachers.
1. I will encourage others in hard times.
1. I will not mock authorities.
1. I will point out the good in others.
1. I will honor my country.

Scripture Memory for class:

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 (ESV)

Commentaries on John 15:13:

15:13 This is a reference to the supreme evidence and expression of Jesus’ love (v. 12), His sacrificial death upon the cross. Christians are called to exemplify the same kind of sacrificial giving toward one another, even if such sacrifice involves the laying down of one’s own life in imitation of Christ’s example (cf. 1 John 3:16).

MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Jn 15:13). Nashville: Word Pub.

15:13. “Greater love has no one than this ...” Christ sometimes tells us how greatly he loves us in order to confirm our confidence in our salvation; but now he goes further, to inflame us by his example to love our brothers. Yet he joins both together: he wants us to experience by faith how immeasurably sweet is his goodness, and then he entices us for this reason to work at loving each other. Thus Paul writes, “Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2). God could have redeemed us by a word or a wish, but another way seemed better to him for our benefit: that, not sparing his own much-loved Son, he might testify in his person how much he cares for our salvation.

Our hearts must be harder than stone or iron if they are not softened by the immeasurable sweetness of God's love.

It may be asked how Christ died for his friends, since we were enemies before he reconciled us (see Romans 5:10). He destroyed the enmity between God and us by expiating our sins through his sacrificial death. The answer to this question will be found in the comment on chapter 3, that we are at variance with God until our sins are blotted out by the death of Christ; but the cause of this grace, which has been revealed in Christ, was the perpetual love of God, with which he loved even those who were his enemies. Similarly, Christ laid down his life for strangers, but he still loved them or he would not have died for them.

Calvin, J. (1994). John. The Crossway classic commentaries (Jn 15:13). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

Loyalty to Truth

When a person is involved in inappropriate or illegal behavior, many people think loyal friends should help cover up or hide wrongdoing. However, loyalty uses different situations to prove one's commitment.

True loyalty points out an error and suggests ways for a person to make corrections. If a wrong persists, a loyal person does not ignore a problem, but addresses it with those in authority. True friends, co-workers, and family members demonstrate loyalty by protecting others from making mistakes they may regret later. Loyalty remains faithful to both truth and friendship.

The Concept of Loyalty

Loyalty is based on commitment, and every person is committed to something. When difficult and stressful times challenge those commitments, loyalty answers back with resolute faithfulness. Personal integrity becomes more important than personal sacrifice and withstands any pressure to do the wrong thing. Loyalty can become dangerous if you blindly follow after things or leaders who prove to be wrong. Loyalty does not ignore other character qualities such as deference, self-control, truthfulness, generosity, gratefulness, and forgiveness.

Ways Children Can Show Loyalty to Their Family

- Serve their parents by helping with household chores and taking care of younger brothers and sisters.
- Help your family in hard times by encouraging parents and siblings when they struggle.
- Say good things about their parents and siblings and not tell everyone about their faults.
- It is easy to find faults in brothers and sisters, but if children look for the good qualities in their siblings' lives, and praise them in these areas, they will have much better relationships.

Praising Character vs. Achievement!

Mentorship comes in many styles and packages. Yet it has been proven over and over that children respect and learn from those who demonstrate true concern and genuine love toward them.

- Listen more than you talk
- Ask more than you tell
- Do more than you promise

- Praise more than you correct
- Show up more often than you offer regrets
- Challenge more than you excuse
- Point out good qualities more than bad qualities

Ways to Praise

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Paying attention rather than to distractions
- Showing friendship to those who are “picked on”
- Getting approval before carrying out plans
- Praising other family members instead of talking in a bad way about them
- Correctly saying the Pledge of Allegiance
- Contributing their best to a task
- Refraining from gossip.

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I Wills’, and scripture, **LOYALTY** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – LOYALTY in nature with the CANADA GOOSE.** Canada geese defend their nests against all intruders and remain faithful to one mate throughout their lifetimes. In snowstorms, geese sitting on nests have even suffocated under heavy drifts rather than leaving their eggs unprotected.
- **Hero’s of Character with Mary Ludwig Hays** – Women played an important part in the American Revolutionary War. Many left the comforts of home to travel with the Continental Army and bravely serve their country. One such heroine, named Mary Ludwig Hays, fought courageously in her husband’s place and became a legend in American history.

Character Card Tips

Character is useless unless it is a part of everyday life. Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the ‘I wills’ by saying, “Here are ways you can practice **LOYALTY**.” Then read the “I wills” on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices.

Personal Evaluation – Test your Child: How LOYAL (faithful) are you?

1. Do you doubt God’s sovereignty during adversity, or do you draw nearer to him?
2. Do you speak well of your authorities even during difficult times, or do you murmur?

3. Do you protect your family even when circumstances make it difficult?
4. Do you treat other believers as you would want to be treated?
5. Do you commit to the success of those whom God has called you to serve?
6. Are you willing to lay down your life for your family and friends?
7. Are you committed to keeping your marriage vows, no matter what the cost?

LOYALTY in the Home Includes:

- Surprising each other with fun outings even during difficult times.
- Parents staying involved in their children's activities even in a crisis.
- Sons and daughters being willing to give up things that their parents cannot afford to buy rather than make them feel inadequate.
- Avoiding influences that draw family members' hearts away from one another.

Rewards of LOYALTY

- **BONDING** – Families who stick together in hard times experience a deep bonding that makes their relationships stronger than they were before the crisis.
- **TRUST** – being committed to family through traumas, financial struggles, and personality conflicts builds trust among family members that is not easily broken.

COVENANTS vs. CONTRACTS

- A covenant is based on trust; a contract is based on distrust.
- A covenant is built on unlimited liability; a contract is based on limited liability.
- A covenant is a sealed agreement; a contract is open to more debate.
- A covenant cannot be broken; a contract can be set aside.

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